

own peculiar outlook He describes what he calls "an unholy little compact, which I believe was never actually put into words" between himself and Sidney Webb

"When anything important comes up, I bring out a root-and-branch revolutionary proposal, and set it before them That puts them in a fright, and then Webb comes in with his proposal, only a few degrees milder than mine, and they are so relieved that they pass Webb's motion unanimously—although if that had been proposed to them first, they would have found it much too strong, and perhaps refused to handle it at all"

Hyndman here, one fancies, is speaking with the authentic voice of the Social Democratic Party he represented, and with their conception of what is "revolutionary"

It is apt, with them, to be a question of what Sidney Webb, in opposing an amendment brought forward at a later Conference, was to call "bringing in the old shibboleths again"

On that, he remarked gently, 'We have heard the same speech over and over again I am not against it but it gets a bit monotonous'!

That they did "pass Webb's motion" is credible enough certainly he was mainly responsible for the Committee's admirable work on the entire complex of issues known as "Food Prices,"⁵⁵ where, had its advice been taken, at the time at which it was first given, much trouble and much real distress might have been avoided On an allied problem, that of rents, his work was also notably effective The rise in rent charges, at a time when to find alternative accommodation was absolutely impossible, was a very real

grievance, and \with no group more real than
with the \vives
of soldiers With great skill, he got a working
alliance into
being between a sub-committee of the W E W
N C and
bodies representing the property owners To the
conference
arranged with the latter body, he took H M
Hyndrnan
along with him the latter protesting loudly,
as he waved
his silk hat, against being involved in such
"bourgeois